

**DIVERSIFYING HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY IN ILLINOIS PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2010 GRANT ALLOCATION**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item recommends the allocation of the anticipated fiscal year 2010 appropriation for grants authorized by the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Act. The Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Program (DFI) provides financial assistance to minority students pursuing graduate and professional degrees at Illinois public and private institutions. The purpose of the DFI Program is to advance the goal of increasing the number of minority faculty and staff employed at Illinois colleges and universities. The DFI Program supports the goals of the *Public Agenda*.

Subject to appropriations made by the Illinois General Assembly, \$2.5 million will be allocated to support approximately 141 DFI awards in fiscal year 2010, including awards for 89 continuing recipients and 52 new recipients. In the event that DFI Program funding is reduced, the number of awards made to new recipients will be adjusted to meet the level of available funding.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the fiscal year 2010 appropriation for grants authorized by the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Act and recommended by the DFI Program Board.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**DIVERSIFYING HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY IN ILLINOIS PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2010 GRANT ALLOCATION**

The DFI Program provides financial awards to eligible minority students pursuing graduate and professional degrees at Illinois public and private institutions. As a condition of the award, recipients agree to accept a teaching or staff position in an Illinois higher education institution or governing board, or an education-related position in a state agency, equal to the number of years that he or she was a participant in the grant program. The DFI Act authorized the Board of Higher Education to appoint a 21-member board to establish policies and procedures to administer the program. The Board of Higher Education also provides program leadership and administrative support.

During February 2009, 112 eligible DFI fellowship applications were received. In April 2009, the Program Board reviewed applications and approved recommendations for fiscal year 2010 fellowship awards. In fiscal year 2009, the Program Board took action to improve the program by placing special emphasis on fellowship applications received in the categories of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The Program Board took action to approve awards ranging from \$14,000 to \$20,000 annually. The DFI Program Board will continue to make program enhancements to address various placement issues such as fellowship award amounts, increased support for fellows, program marketing, revised selection criteria, and priority areas for future fellowship awardees.

The Governor's proposed fiscal year 2010 budget includes \$2.8 million for the DFI Program, the same amount recommended by the IBHE. Based on this funding level, approximately 141 DFI Fellows (89 continuing and 52 new) have been selected by the DFI Program Board for DFI grants (see Table 1) at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million. The remaining funds will be reserved for additional fellowship awards, state leadership activities, and program administration. In the event that the DFI appropriation funding level is reduced, the number of awards made to new recipients will be adjusted to meet the level of available funding. Table 1 presents the fiscal year 2010 distribution of DFI awards by institution. If fellows who are recommended to receive a fellowship award do not accept the award, the funds will be awarded to other eligible candidates as determined by the DFI Program Board.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the fiscal year 2010 appropriation for DFI institutional grant awards (see Table 1) as specified by the statute and recommended by the DFI Program Board.

TABLE 1
Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Act
Distribution of FY2010 DFI Awards*

INSTITUTION	NEW AWARDS	CONTINUING AWARDS
Adler School of Professional Psychology	-	1
Argosy University	2	5
Chicago State University	2	1
Columbia College Chicago	1	0
DePaul University	1	1
Governors State University	1	1
Loyola University Chicago	4	6
Northeastern Illinois University	3	2
Northern Illinois University	5	9
Northwestern University	8	11
School of the Art Institute of Chicago	1	1
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	2	1
University of Chicago	3	6
University of Illinois at Chicago	12	18
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	7	26
Total: # Student Fellows	52	89
Total: \$ Awarded	\$1,040,000	\$1,468,000

* Distribution of 141 awards is based on a total appropriation of \$2.8 million and is subject to change based on final funding level approved by the General Assembly and the Governor, budget reserves, program costs, and/or students' non-acceptance of awards.